

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
FRANKLIN COUNTY
CLERK**

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2008**



**CRIT LUALLEN
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY CLERK

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2008**

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the Franklin County Clerk's audit for the year ended December 31, 2008. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement presents fairly in all material respects, the revenues, expenditures, and excess fees in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

Financial Condition:

Excess fees decreased by \$184,369 from the prior year, resulting in excess fees of \$342,252 as of December 31, 2008. Revenues decreased by \$430,572 from the prior year and expenditures decreased by \$246,203.

Lease Agreements:

Lease agreements totaled \$355,990 as of December 31, 2008. Future payments of \$355,990 are needed to meet these obligations.

Deposits:

The County Clerk's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities.

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CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Ted Collins, Franklin County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Guy Ziegler, Franklin County Clerk
Members of the Franklin County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the accompanying statement of revenues, expenditures, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the County Clerk of Franklin County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2008. This financial statement is the responsibility of the County Clerk. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the County Clerk's office prepares the financial statement on a regulatory basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the revenues, expenditures, and excess fees of the County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2008, in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated June 19, 2009 on our consideration of the Franklin County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.



The Honorable Ted Collins, Franklin County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Guy Ziegler, Franklin County Clerk
Members of the Franklin County Fiscal Court

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the County Clerk and Fiscal Court of Franklin County, Kentucky, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crit Luallen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

June 19, 2009

FRANKLIN COUNTY
GUY ZIEGLER, COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2008

Revenues

State Fees For Services	\$	18,172
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Fiscal Court		12,423
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Licenses and Taxes:

Motor Vehicle-

Licenses and Transfers	\$	1,666,561
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Usage Tax		5,500,960
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Tangible Personal Property Tax		4,221,255
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Other-

Fish and Game Licenses		8,389
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Marriage Licenses		13,029
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Beer and Liquor Licenses		32,701
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Liens		23,436
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Deed Transfer Tax		128,724
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Delinquent Tax	947,034	12,542,089
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Fees Collected for Services:

Recordings-

Deeds, Easements, and Contracts		21,084
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Real Estate Mortgages		82,455
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Chattel Mortgages and Financing Statements		110,600
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Powers of Attorney		8,565
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Affordable Housing Trust		65,814
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All Other Recordings		64,353
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Charges for Other Services-

Candidate Filing Fees		770
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Copywork	22,554	376,195
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Other:

Miscellaneous		9,491
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Interest Earned		1,381
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Total Revenues		12,959,751
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

FRANKLIN COUNTY
 GUY ZIEGLER, COUNTY CLERK
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2008
 (Continued)

Expenditures

Payments to State:

Motor Vehicle-

Licenses and Transfers \$ 1,181,338

Usage Tax 5,335,784

Tangible Personal Property Tax 1,464,581

Licenses, Taxes, and Fees-

Fish and Game Licenses 8,143

Delinquent Tax 88,924

Legal Process Tax 44,423

Affordable Housing Trust 65,814 \$ 8,189,007

Payments to Fiscal Court:

Tangible Personal Property Tax 501,693

Delinquent Tax 98,112

Deed Transfer Tax 122,288

Beer and Liquor Licenses 30,781 752,874

Payments to Other Districts:

Tangible Personal Property Tax 2,086,125

Delinquent Tax 530,955 2,617,080

Payments to Sheriff

3,181

Payments to County Attorney

139,849

Operating Expenditures and Capital Outlay:

Personnel Services-

Deputies' Salaries 484,662

Contracted Services-

Record Preservation 128,988

Audit 9,000

Tax Bill Preparation 8,823

Materials and Supplies-

Office Supplies 27,257

Other Charges-

Conventions and Travel 2,238

Dues 2,640

Postage 10,000

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

FRANKLIN COUNTY
 GUY ZIEGLER, COUNTY CLERK
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2008
 (Continued)

Expenditures (Continued)

Operating Expenditures and Capital Outlay: (Continued)

Other Charges- (Continued)

Election Expense	\$	68,857	
Indexing Equipment & Software		70,428	
Copier Maintenance Agreements		2,608	
Postage Machine Lease		<u>3,000</u>	\$ 818,501
Total Expenditures			<u>\$ 12,520,492</u>
Net Revenues			439,259
Less: Statutory Maximum			<u>89,882</u>
Excess Fees			<u>349,377</u>
Less: Expense Allowance		3,600	
Training Incentive Benefit		<u>3,525</u>	7,125
Excess Fees Due County for 2008			342,252
Payment to Fiscal Court - March 3, 2009			<u>300,000</u>
Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit *			<u>\$ 42,252</u>

- * On June 19, 2009, the County Clerk issued a check to the County Treasurer for the balance due Fiscal Court.

FRANKLIN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2008

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of revenues over expenditures to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

B. Basis of Accounting

KRS 64.820 directs the fiscal court to collect any amount, including excess fees, due from the County Clerk as determined by the audit. KRS 64.152 requires the County Clerk to settle excess fees with the fiscal court by March 15 each year.

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Under this regulatory basis of accounting, revenues and expenditures are generally recognized when cash is received or disbursed with the exception of accrual of the following items (not all-inclusive), at December 31 that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2008 services
- Reimbursements for 2008 activities
- Payments due other governmental entities for December tax and fee collections and payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2008

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the County Treasurer in the subsequent year.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the County Clerk's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

FRANKLIN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2008
(Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System

The county officials and employees have elected to participate in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems. This is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plan that covers all eligible full-time employees and provides for retirement, disability, and death benefits to plan members.

Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute. Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute 5.0 percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 16.17 percent for the first six months and 13.50 percent for the last six months of the year.

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65. Aspects of benefits for hazardous employees include retirement after 20 years of service or age 55.

Historical trend information pertaining to CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the Kentucky Retirement Systems' annual financial report which is a matter of public record. This report may be obtained by writing the Kentucky Retirement Systems, 1260 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-6124, or by telephone at (502) 564-4646.

Note 3. Deposits

The Franklin County Clerk maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the County Clerk and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the County Clerk's deposits may not be returned. The Franklin County Clerk does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather follows the requirements of KRS 41.240(4). As of December 31, 2008, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

FRANKLIN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2008
(Continued)

Note 3. Leases

The Franklin County Clerk's office was committed to the following lease agreements as of December 31, 2008:

Item Purchased	Monthly Payment	Term Of Agreement	Ending Date	Principal Balance December 31, 2008
Postage Meter	\$ 250	66 months	03/31/10	\$ 3,850
Software--SMI	\$ 2,425	60 months	12/31/13	145,500
Hardware--SMI	\$ 3,444	60 months	12/31/13	206,640
			Total	<u>\$ 355,990</u>

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Ted Collins, Franklin County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Guy Ziegler, Franklin County Clerk
Members of the Franklin County Fiscal Court

Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the statement of revenues, expenditures, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the Franklin County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2008, and have issued our report thereon dated June 19, 2009. The County Clerk's financial statement is prepared in accordance with a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Franklin County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with the regulatory basis of accounting such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's financial statement that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statement will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

Compliance And Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Franklin County Clerk's financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2008, is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Franklin County Fiscal Court, and the Department for Local Government and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crit Luallen", with a stylized, flowing script.

Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

June 19, 2009

